

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RANGOO 00644 220944Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/061 W

-----114486 221040Z /15

R 220744Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4971

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 0644

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BM

SUBJ: BCP ATTACKS FOLLOWING TENG HSIAO PING VISIT

REF: RANGOON 3415

1. A FRESH OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING BETWEEN THE BURMA COMMUNIST PARTY (BCP) AND GOVERNMENT FORCES TOOK PLACE IN EARLY FEBRUARY, SHORTLY AFTER THE DEPARTURE FROM BURMA OF PRC VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO PING. THE BCP LAUNCHED A ONE BRIGADE SIZE ATTACK IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF KUNLONG, WHERE MAJOR FIGHTING OCCURRED LAST OCTOBER (SEE REF), AND OTHER SMALLER ACTIONS. THREE BURMA ARMY OFFICERS WERE KILLED IN ACTION, INCLUDING ONE BATTALION COMMANDER. THE GUB HAS DECIDED NOT TO REPORT THE FIGHTING IN THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED NEWS MEDIA. THE BURMESE CONSIDER THAT THE ATTACKS WERE LAUNCHED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. (THE FOREGOING INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED TO THE DEFENSE ATTACHE BY THE DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE, COL. MYO AUNG.)

2. THE BCP RADIO "VOICE OF THE PEOPLE OF BURMA" BROADCAST A REPORT ON FEBRUARY 14 OF THREE BCP ATTACKS IN THE FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY, IN WHICH IT WAS CLAIMED THE BURMA ARMY LOST 85
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RANGOO 00644 220944Z

MEN KILLED IN ACTION, INCLUDING SIX OFFICERS, AND A SIZEABLE QUANTITY OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GET MORE DETAILS REGARDING THE FIGHTING, BUT WE BELIEVE THE BCP CLAIMS ARE CERTAINLY WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY. THE TIMING OF THE ATTACKS, FOLLOWING SEVERAL MONTHS OF A COMPARATIVE LULL IN THE FIGHTING,

APPEARS INTENDED, IN PART AT LEAST, TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE BCP REMAINS AN AGGRESSIVE FORCE, DESPITE TENG'S VISIT.

4. THE BURMA ARMY SEEMS TO BE FOLLOWING A BASICALLY DEFENSIVE STRATEGY OF CONTAINMENT SO FAR THIS DRY SEASON. NO MAJOR OFFENSIVE HAS YET BEEN INITIATED, ALTHOUGH WE HAD EARLIER INDICATIONS THAT ONE WAS PLANNED. WE BELIEVE THIS STRATEGY IS DICTATED AS MUCH BY RESOURCE LIMITATIONS AS ANY OTHER REASON. ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AN OFFENSIVE MIGHT YET BE LAUNCHED IN THE COMING MONTHS, AS TIME PASSES IT LOOKS INCREASINGLY THAT THE GUB IS NOT WILLING TO EXPEND SCARCE RESOURCES AT THIS TIME TO CONDUCT MAJOR OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AGAINST THE BCP. HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN A CONTINUING SERIES OF SMALL BURMA ARMY OPERATIONS AGAINST THE BCP, REPORTEDLY INCLUDING SOME IN THE BCP STRONGHOLD EAST OF THE SALWEEN RIVER IN THE NORTHERN SHAN STATE.
BARTLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978RANGOO00644
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780079-0924
Format: TEL
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780228/aaaaawzp.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 59162bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 RANGOON 3415
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3520258
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BCP ATTACKS FOLLOWING TENG HSIAO PING VISIT
TAGS: PINT, BM, BCP, (TENG HSIAO PING)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/59162bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014